

# Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ending 31st December, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet.

Upon the Instructions of the Ministry of Health this report will be an interim one, only confined to essential and urgent matters affecting Public Health.

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year ending December, 31st, 1939.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

A. H. Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Isolation Hospital and Public Vaccinator.

G. W. R. Bishop, M.B.B.S., Public Assistance Officer.

Duncan T. G. Brown, A.R. SAN. I., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	2259 Statute Acres.
Estimated Resident Population	... 4,416
Number of Inhabited Houses, 31st December, 1939	... 1,312
Rateable Value	... £22,632
Actual Product of 1d. Rate	... £98

The Area is chiefly Agricultural.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births, Legitimate	61	33	28
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	... 14.26		
Still births	... 2	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... 14.4		
	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	... 49	24	25
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	... 10.80		
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—			
Puerperal sepsis	Nil.		
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	... Nil.		
Other puerperal causes	Nil.		
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	Nil.		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	... 1 Male.		
All infants per 1,000 live births	... 16.1		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 16.1		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... Nil.		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 5		
Do. Measles do.	... Nil.		
Do. Whooping Cough do.	... Nil.		
Do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	... Nil.		

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

During the year the Ambulance has been used on 138 occasions, 72 Urban and 66 Rural. The facilities appear adequate.

### HOSPITALS.

There is one District Hospital supported by voluntary contributions and also a joint Urban and Rural Isolation Hospital.

The membership of the Hospital League for Shepton Mallet and District is continually increasing.

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

This continues to be held at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, in Paul Street, on alternate Fridays throughout the year.

From January 1st, 1939, to December 31st, 1939: Sessions 26.

Total attendances of Mothers for the 12 Months ... ... 771

Total attendances of all Children under 5 years of age ... 756

First attendance under 1 year ... 441

Children seen by Doctor during 1939 ... 179

Nursing in the home is provided by two Queen's District Nurses.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Shepton Mallet Water Works Company, and comes by gravitation from Springs in the Mendip Hills. The water is chlorinated continuously. Samples taken monthly during the year have been satisfactory.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All house refuse is collected by a Motor Vehicle, conveyed to the Charlton Tip and burnt in an incinerator. This method has proved satisfactory.

### PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The Drainage, Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supply at the three Schools viz., Waterloo Road, Kilver Street, and Bowlish, is satisfactory.

### SHOPS' ACT, 1934.

Shops within the Urban District are inspected and, where necessary, additional ventilation and sanitary accommodation is provided.

### HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year :—

#### 1. By Local Authority With State Assistance—

(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 ... ... None

(b) Overcrowding ... ... None

(c) Other ... ... None

Without State Assistance ... ... None

#### 2. By other Bodies or Persons :—

(a) With State Assistance ... None

(b) Without State Assistance ... 3

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS—

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 35

(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ... 41

2. (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932 ...

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	5	(2) Number of Families dwelling therein ...	1
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ...	10	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	8
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	None
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	2	(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	1
<b>II. HOUSING ACTION.</b>		(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	8
(a) Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	5	(d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of crowding ...	None
(b) Number of Houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ...	None	(e) Any other particulars with respect of over crowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	None
<b>III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—</b>			
<b>A. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 &amp; 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—</b>			
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None		
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	None		
(a) By Owners ...	None		
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	None		
<b>B. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—</b>			
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	None		
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	None		
(a) By Owners ...	None		
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	None		
<b>C. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 13 &amp; 26 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—</b>			
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	None		
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	None		
(3) (a) Clearance Orders made	None		
(b) Number of houses involved ...	None		
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed	None		
(a) Number of Houses involved ...	None		
(b) Number of Houses Demolished ...	None		
(c) Number of Houses to be demolished ...	None		
<b>D. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—</b>			
(1) Number of separate Tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	None		
(2) Number of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	None		
<b>IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING :—</b>			
(a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	1		

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register ... 27  
Number of Distributors on the Register

divided as follows :—

(a) Distributors only ... ... 5  
(b) Distributors who are also Producers ... ... 3

(A Producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors ... ... 3 (Renewals).

(If any, give particulars of designation).  
(2 Pasteurised, 1 T.T.).

(2 of these reside outside the District).  
Seven Dairymen in the District are Producers of Accredited Milk, and two of "T.T."

The following Samples were sent for Analysis :—

Samples of Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) 10  
Pasteurised ... ... 9  
Accredited ... ... 22  
Tubercle Bacilli ... ... 9

The conditions of the Cow Stalls has been considerably improved.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	... 40	36	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 2	—	—
Pneumonia	... 2	—	4
Erysipelas	... 4	3	—

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory	Non-Res.	Respiratory	Non-Res.
M.	F.	M.	F.	
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	1
25	—	—	1	—
35	—	—	1	—
45	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—
65 & upwd.	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	—	2	1

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 4 Licensed and 2 Registered Slaughter Houses in the District; Licences are granted for 12 months.

These are constantly inspected, especially when Slaughtering is in progress.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924**  
Slaughter Houses Occupiers :—

A. Hutchings, Butcher, High Street	Registered
E. J. Taylor, Butcher, Peter St.	Ditto.
Britten Bros., Butcher, High Street	Licensed
C.W.S. Bacon Factory, Charlton Rd.	Ditto.
C. Tutton, Butcher, Bowlish	Ditto.
R. Lewis and S. Mapley (joint)	
Draycott	Ditto.

Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations :—

- (a) Person appointed to receive these Notices,  
Mr. D. Brown, Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Number of Slaughter-House Occupiers,  
exclusive of Emergency Slaughtering,  
who have given notice of Slaughtering 7  
at a fixed timed

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are periodically inspected, and should  
any defects be found the Owner or Occupier  
is notified and the necessary work done.

BAKEHOUSES.

The 3 Bakehouses within the District, are  
all periodically inspected.

CAMPING SITES.

None in the Urban District.

WATER SUPPLY.

No alteration made in the water supply  
during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No work done during the year.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH INQUIRIES.

None held.

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. FINCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban  
District Council of Shepton Mallet.

